

# Chordal Decomposition in Rank Minimized SDPs

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## Motivation

Many problems in machine learning can be equivalently expressed as rank-constrained semidefinite programs (SDPs):

$$\begin{aligned} X^* = \operatorname{argmin}_X \quad & \langle C, X \rangle \\ \text{subject to} \quad & \langle A_i, X \rangle = b_i \quad i = 1..m \\ & X \succeq 0, \quad \operatorname{rank}(X) \leq t, \end{aligned} \quad (1)$$

Problem (1) is NP-hard, but the Reweighted Trace Heuristic is a convex relaxation. Rank-approximated SDPs exhibit poor scaling properties as the size of  $X$  grows.

Exploiting chordal sparsity in ML-motivated SDPs often leads to algorithms that scale linearly with the number of data points.

## Chordal Graphs and Semidefinite Optimization

In sparse SDPs, only a few entries of  $X$  appear in the cost function and equality constraints. All other entries are "free" to choose in order to force  $X \succeq 0$ . If the structure is chordal, we can take advantage of it to reduce computational complexity.

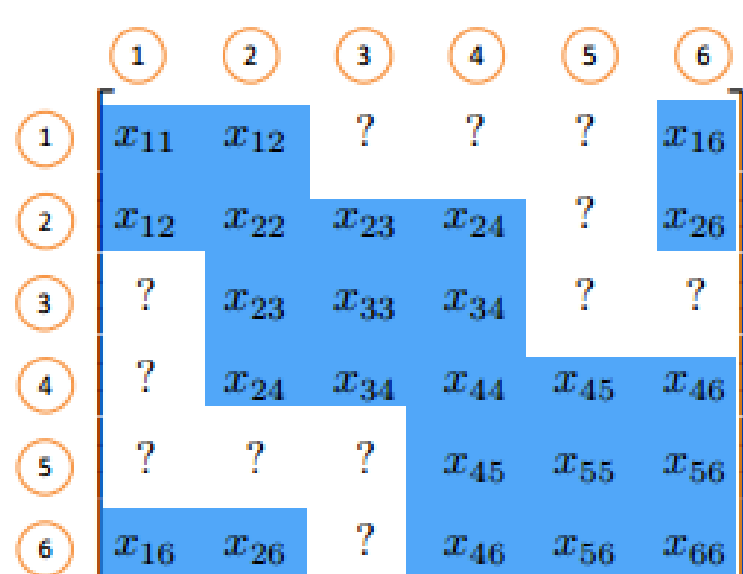


Figure 1: Variables that appear in  $(C, A_i)$  vs. "free" entries. Forms a sparsity pattern  $\mathcal{G}(\mathcal{V}, \mathcal{E})$

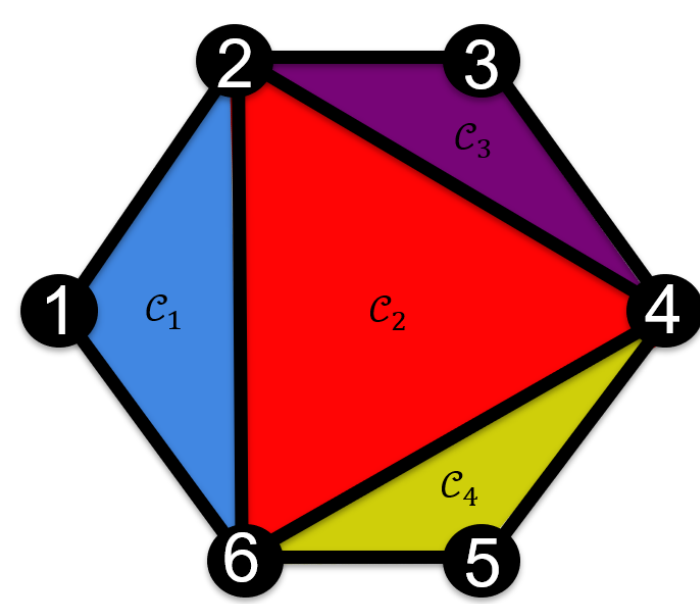


Figure 2: The chordal graph  $\mathcal{G}(\mathcal{V}, \mathcal{E})$  identified with the above sparsity pattern as well as maximal cliques  $\mathcal{C}_k$  (complete subgraphs). Chordal graphs have shortcuts on all 4+length cycles (triangulated).

$\mathbb{S}_+^n(\mathcal{E}, ?)$  is the set of PSD-completable matrices with sparsity  $\mathcal{G}$ . If all the clique submatrices  $E_{\mathcal{C}_k} X E_{\mathcal{C}_k}^T = X_k \succeq 0$  (Grone), a minimal rank completion exists:

## Minimum Rank Completion

For any  $X \in \mathbb{S}_+^n(\mathcal{E}, ?)$ , there exists at least one minimum rank PSD completion where

$$\operatorname{rank}(X) = \max_k \operatorname{rank}(E_{\mathcal{C}_k} X E_{\mathcal{C}_k}^T)$$

Minimizing  $\operatorname{rank}(X)$  is equivalent to minimizing the maximum  $\operatorname{rank}(X_k)$ .

## Chordal Decomposition of Rank-Minimized SDP

The chordalized rank-minimized SDP is:

$$\begin{aligned} \min_{X, X_k} \quad & \langle C, X \rangle + \sum_{k=1}^p \langle W_k, X_k \rangle \\ \text{subject to} \quad & \langle A_i, X \rangle = b_i, \quad i = 1..m \\ & X_k = E_{\mathcal{C}_k} X E_{\mathcal{C}_k}^T, \\ & X_k \succeq 0, \quad \forall k = 1..p, \end{aligned} \quad (2)$$

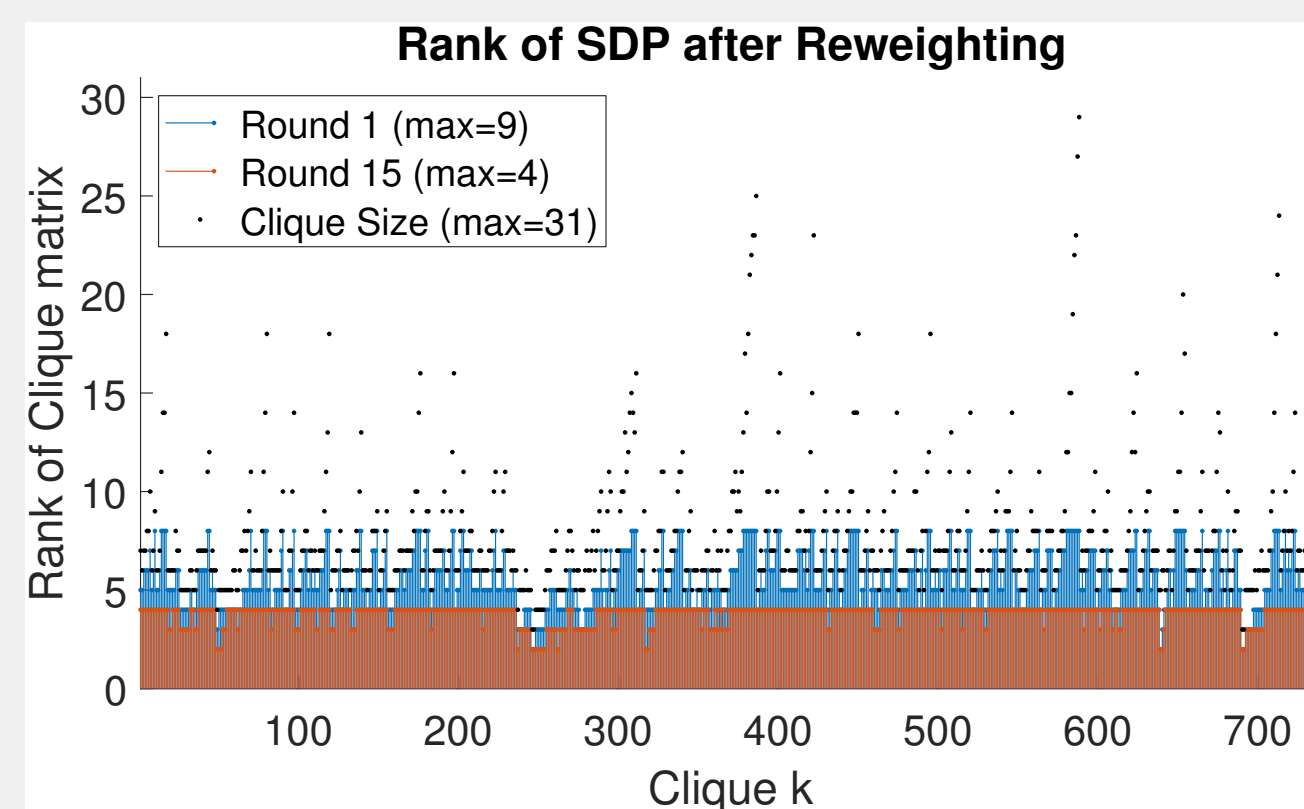


Figure 3: Chordal Rank SDP on an 1000-vertex Maxcut problem. There are 740 cliques with  $|\mathcal{C}^{\max}| = 31$  (black). Maximum clique rank starts at 9 (blue), and drops to 4 (orange) after 15 rounds.

## Experiments

Problem (2) is convex for each reweighting iteration. Tests were run on Subspace Clustering and Maxcut SDPs by algorithms such as interior point methods and ADMM.

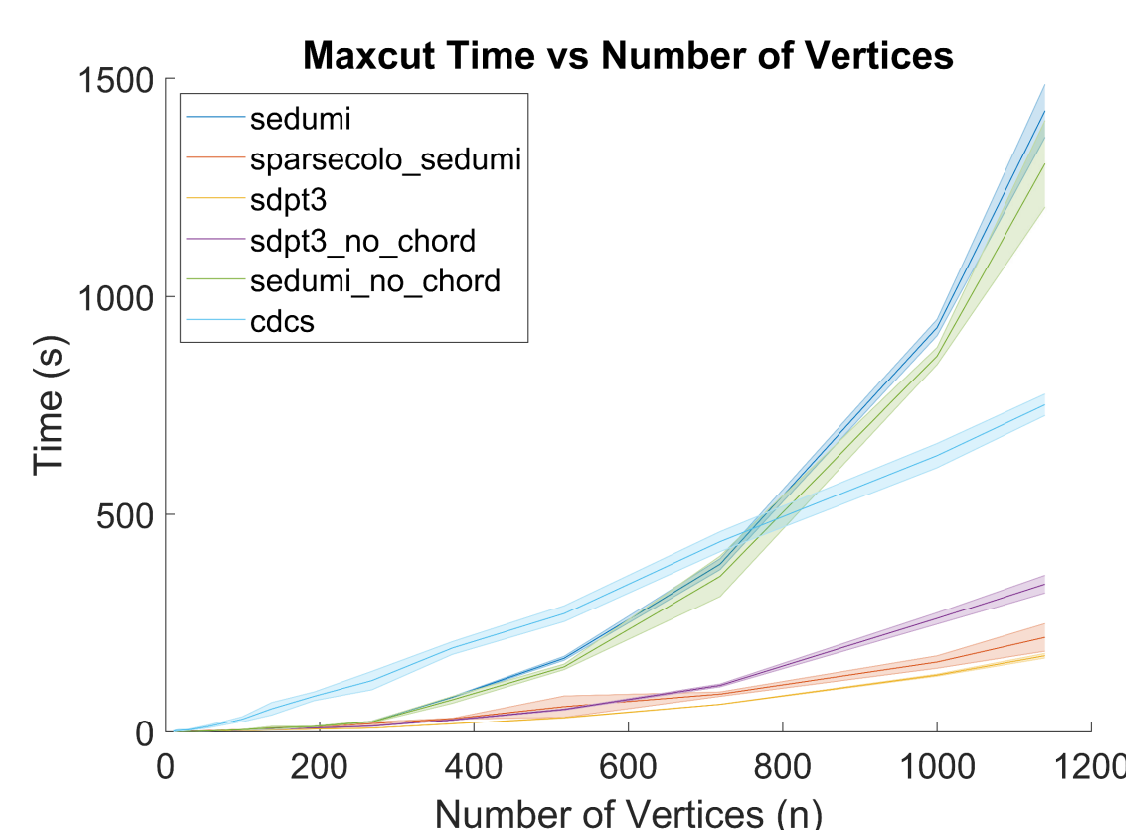


Figure 4: Maxcut time  $\pm 1$  stdev vs.  $|\mathcal{V}|$ , 5 trials.

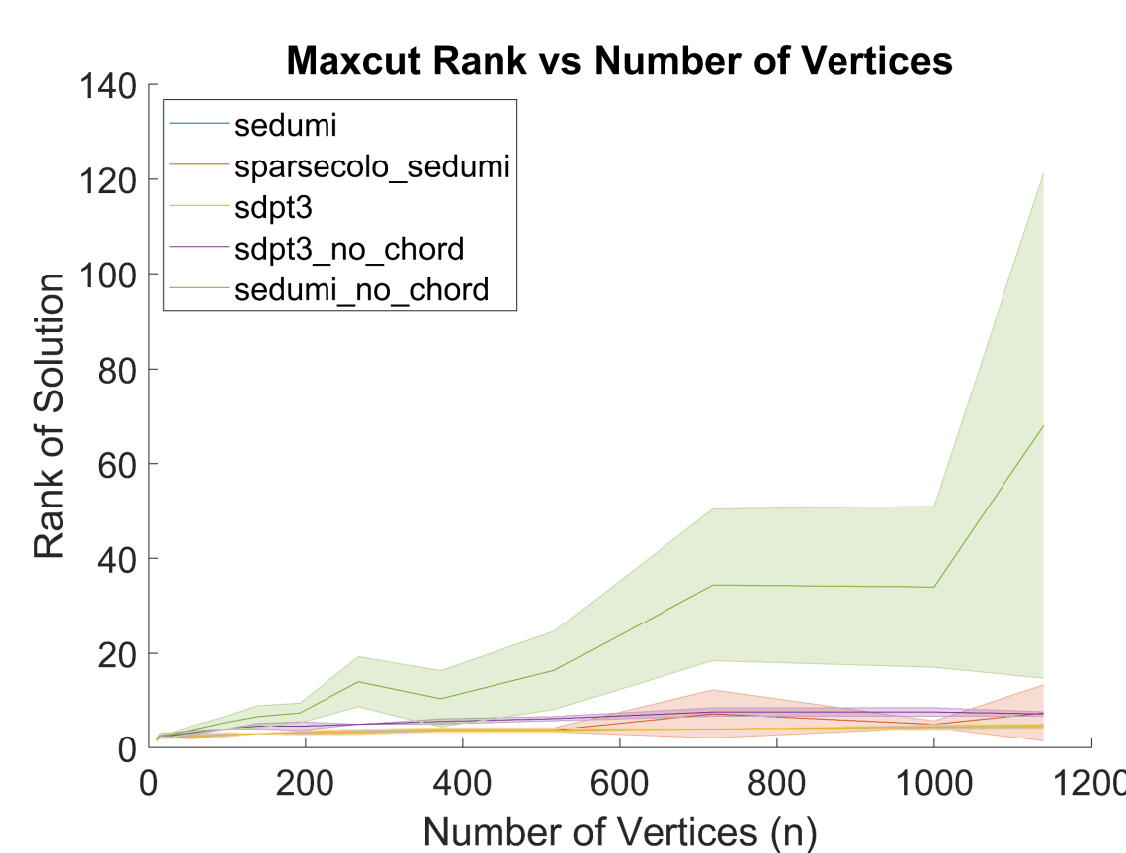


Figure 5: Maxcut rank  $\pm 1$  stdev vs.  $|\mathcal{V}|$ , 5 trials.

$X_k$  can be optionally eliminated:

$$\begin{aligned} \min_X \quad & \langle C + W_{\mathcal{C}}, X \rangle \\ \text{subject to} \quad & \langle A_i, X \rangle = b_i, \quad i = 1..m, \\ & X \in \mathbb{S}_+^n(\mathcal{E}, ?). \end{aligned}$$

where  $W_{\mathcal{C}} = \sum_{k=1}^p E_{\mathcal{C}_k}^T W_k E_{\mathcal{C}_k}$  is the accumulated clique weight. The new cost  $C + W_{\mathcal{C}}$  retains the sparsity pattern  $\mathcal{E}$ .

## Subspace Clustering

Given  $N_p$  points  $x_j \in \mathbb{R}^D$  and a  $N_s$  subspaces with unit normals  $r_i \in \mathbb{R}^D$ , subspace clustering aims to determine if point  $x_j$  came from subspace  $r_i$  (binary labels  $s_{ij}$ ). This occurs if  $r_i^T x_j = 0$ , relaxed to  $|r_i^T x_j| \leq \epsilon$  under bounded noise.

These algorithms allow subspace clustering to scale linearly with number of points and subspaces

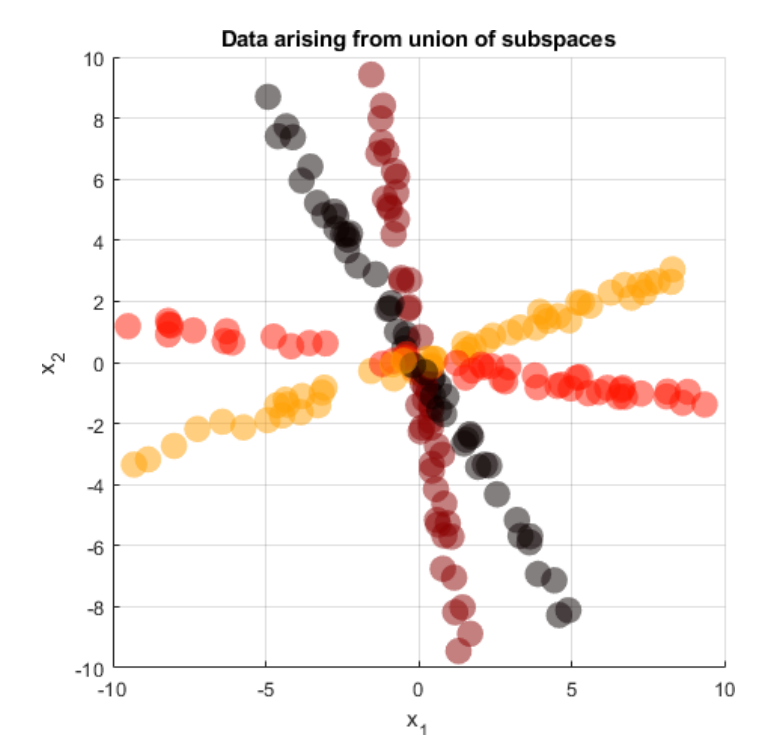


Figure 6: A typical problem in Subspace Clustering

Finding  $(r_i, s_{ij})$  is a nonconvex problem:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{find}_{r,s} \quad & s_{ij} |r_i^T x_j| \leq s_{ij} \epsilon \quad s_{ij} = s_{ij}^2 \\ & \sum_{i=1}^{N_s} s_{ij} = 1 \quad r_i^T r_i = 1 \end{aligned} \quad (3)$$

Given  $X = [1, r_i, s_{ij}][1, r_i, s_{ij}]^T$ , this is a rank-1 SDP in  $X$ . We improve *Cheng et. al. [2016]*'s chordal sparsity (grey) by using a reduced chordal extension (red).

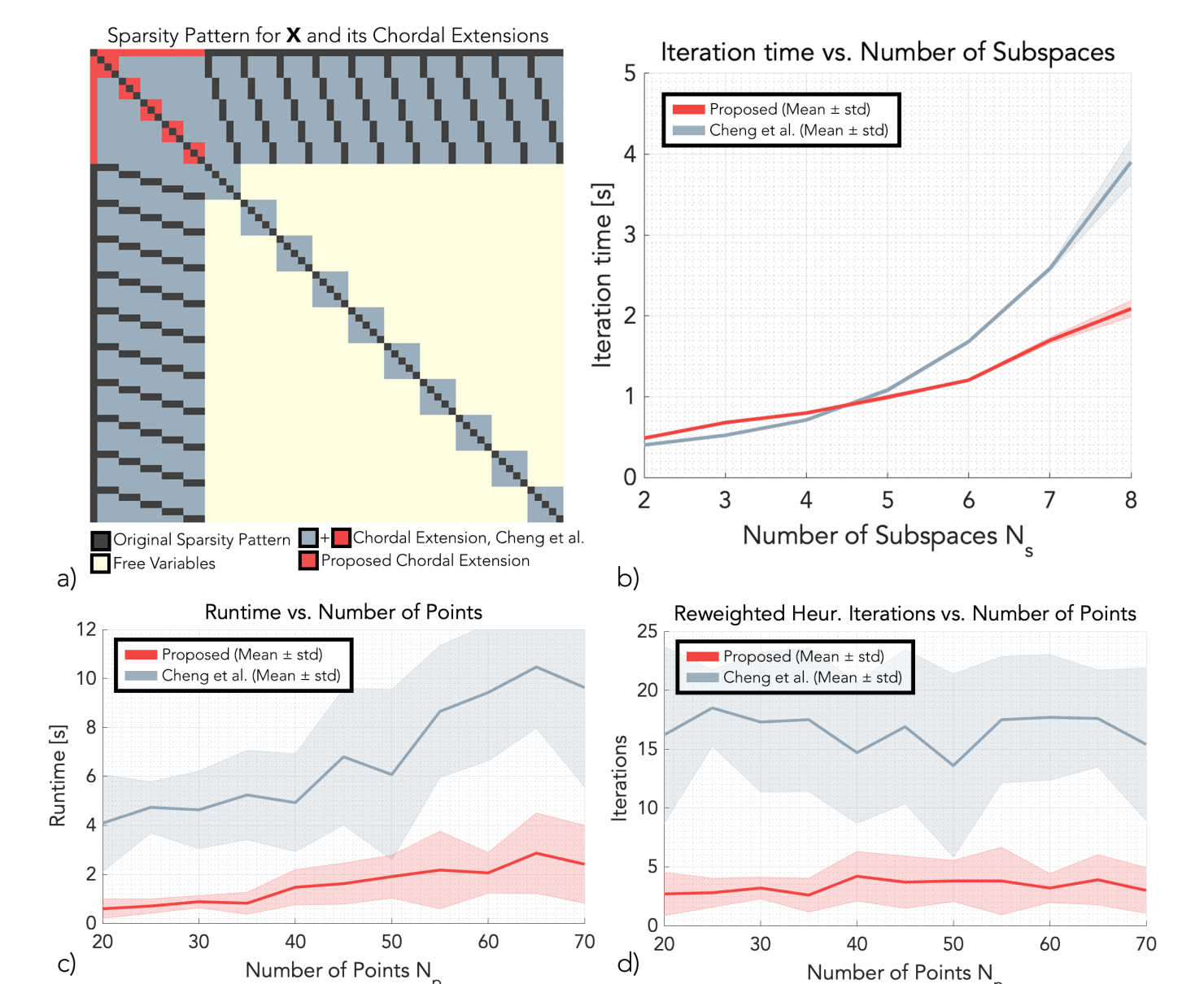
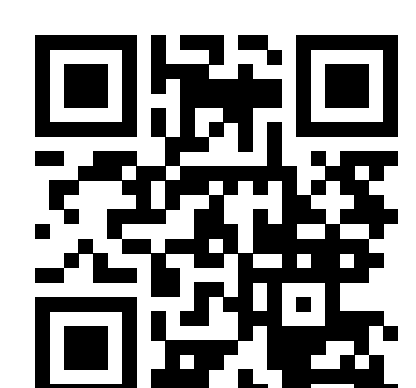


Figure 7: a)  $X$  variable structure and chordal extensions. b, c, d) Further runtime analysis.

A summary of the matrix sizes are:

Problem	Rank 1 PSD	Other PSD	%edges
Full $X$	$[1 + N_s(D + N_p)]$	$\emptyset$	1637%
Cheng	$[1 + N_s D]$	$N_p[1 + N_s(D + 1)]$	350%
Ours	$N_s[D + 1]$	$N_p N_s[D + 2]$	13%

Table 1:  $N[k]$  denote  $N$  PSD cones:  $(\mathbb{S}_+^k)^N$ . %edges measures size of chordal extension over baseline  $\mathcal{E}$  ( $D = 3, N_p = 10, N_s = 5$ ).



<https://arxiv.org/abs/1904.10041>